

Proposal for Graduate Certificate in Ethics and Public Affairs

Cynthia Stark
Brenda Lyshaug

General Description of Program:

The Departments of Political Science and Philosophy seek support for a graduate certificate program in Ethics and Public Affairs. The program is directed at two constituencies: graduate students in the Colleges of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences who are interested in thinking broadly and deeply about the ethical issues of public life and students in disciplines outside of those colleges who are interested in the normative issues related to their professions. Students in the latter group fall into two categories: those enrolled in the Schools of Architecture, Business, Education, Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and Social Work, among others and professionals in the community holding a Bachelor's degree or higher who would like to further their education. The curriculum will consist of a core course and a set of elective courses that allow students to construct different tracks or concentration areas. Possible concentration areas include, but are not confined to: Ethics and the Professions, Ethics and Public Policy, Distributive Justice and Global Justice.

Need:

The overarching goal of this program is to encourage ethical consideration of important domestic and international issues related to public and professional life, such as education, the environment, health care, human rights, citizenship, cultural identity and conflict resolution. The modern university is the gateway to professional and public life. With this important social function comes the responsibility to draw attention to the complex ethical features and obligations that attach both to democratic citizenship and to the particular careers, offices and institutions to which students gain access with university degrees. As the flagship public university of the state of Utah, the University is the natural locus of such responsibility.

Ethics and public affairs teaching is not merely a duty, but an opportunity to satisfy growing student, faculty and disciplinary interests. Courses on these topics taught in Political Science and Philosophy are frequently cited by students as some of their favorite, most thought-provoking classes. The Department of Philosophy is internationally recognized for its research in applied ethics. In Political Science a search process is beginning for the Maxwell Presidential Endowed Chair in Political Theory, Public Policy and Public Service, which will complement this program. Faculty research and teaching in these areas is currently supported by prominent campus centers such as the Tanner Humanities Center. Disciplinary interest in ethics and public affairs is evidenced by the rapid growth of specialized journals, scholarships, professional organizations, research centers and funding initiatives.

Similar Programs:

The Institute for Ethics and Policy Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is the nearest institution in the area that offers a program similar in content and mission to the one being proposed. The institute grants a Master of Arts degree. No institution in the intermountain region offers a graduate certificate program similar to the Ethics and Public Affairs Certificate being proposed.

Administration:

According to its mission statement, the University of Utah's mission is "to educate the individual and to discover, refine and disseminate knowledge." The statement also expresses the University's commitment to critical examination, intellectual integrity and social responsibility. The proposed graduate certificate in Ethics and Public Affairs, as described above, contributes to the University's mission by giving a broad range of students and community members the opportunity to acquire knowledge about the ethical issues of public life, to engage in the activity of critical examination and to become socially responsible citizens.

The program will be administered by a Program Coordinator drawn from the faculty in Political Science or Philosophy for a renewable three year term. The Program Coordinator will be awarded a one-course teaching reduction in exchange for administering the program. His or her responsibilities include: advising students enrolled in the certificate program, conducting outreach and advertising to recruit students into the program and coordinating with those responsible for course scheduling

in the departments of Political Science and Philosophy to ensure availability of relevant courses. The Program Coordinator will be part of and assisted by an executive committee consisting of the Program Coordinator, one member of the Political Science Department and one member of the Philosophy Department. The committee will take care of admissions and make necessary on-going decisions concerning the program's structure and function.

Faculty and Staff:

The program will be staffed by current faculty in the Departments of Political Science and Philosophy. Clerical support will be provided by current members of the support staff in the departments of Political Science and Philosophy. No additional faculty or clerical staff will be necessary.

Relevant faculty members in Political Science include: Mark Button, Luke Garrott, Robert Huefner, Howard Lehman, Brenda Lyshaug (half FTE) and Hakan Yavuz.

Relevant faculty in the department of Philosophy include: Chrisoula Andreou, Peggy Battin, Deen Chatterjee, Leslie Francis (half FTE), Eric Hutton, Bruce Landesman, Ronald Mallon, Elijah Millgram, Tom Reed and Cynthia Stark.

Facilities:

No new facilities nor modifications of existing facilities are necessary.

Equipment:

No additional equipment is required.

Library and Learning Resources:

Students will avail themselves of library and learning resources currently provided for graduate students in the colleges of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

These include, books, periodicals, reference materials, library staff and technology housed in the Marriott, the Law and the Health Sciences libraries, in the Tanner Library in Orson Spencer Hall and in the various computer labs on campus.

Specific Program Description:

Curriculum:

Students will be required to pass four courses with a grade of B- or better and to write a research paper upon completion of these courses, for a total of 15 credits. Each student must take, in his or her first semester, the Ethics and Public Affairs Pro-Seminar. This course is a new course which will be designed by members of the program faculty. Both Political Science and Philosophy will have this course in their curriculum (Political Science 60055 and Philosophy 6005). Consequently it can be taught by a member of either department, depending on staffing availability. The student credit hours for the course are assigned to whichever department is granting the course release to the program coordinator. The other three courses are electives. Students must take at least one elective from Political Science and one from Philosophy. Electives are currently listed in the University's General Catalogue under the Departments of Political Science and Philosophy. They include in Political Science:

6000 Foundations of Political Thought: Ancient and Judeo-Christian
 6010 Political Thought from Machiavelli
 6025 American Political Thought
 6035 Contemporary Political Thought
 6090 Political Thought in Islam
 6140 Feminist Political Theory
 6960 Special Topics: Moral Conflicts in Politics
 6005 Liberalism
 6015 Theories of Democracy
 6030 Pro-Seminar in Political Theory
 6610 International Law
 6870 Public Administration and Ethics

Relevant Philosophy Courses include:

6130 History of Ethical Theory
 6500 Contemporary Ethical Theory
 6510 Applied Ethics
 6520 Advanced Bioethics
 6700 Advanced Political Philosophy
 6750 Advanced Philosophy of Law
 7080 Seminar in Philosophical Feminism
 7500 Seminar in Ethics
 7510 Seminar in Applied Ethics
 7700 Seminar in Political Philosophy

Students will be permitted to count the three elective courses that they complete for the certificate toward any Master's or Doctoral requirements that those courses fulfill subject to the approval of the students' supervisory committee where applicable. In completing their research papers, students will work closely with a faculty member in either Political Science or Philosophy. Depending on whom they work with, they will register for the research paper under either Political Science 6972: Ethics and Public Affairs Research Paper or Philosophy 6910: Individual Research.

Admission Requirements:

In accordance with University of Utah graduate certificate policy, students must usually have a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average . Exceptions may be made, for example with respect to mature entry students. Exceptions will be approved by the program executive committee. Applicants must submit a transcript for documentation of their GPA. They must also submit two letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from a professor or academic advisor. (For mature entry students, soliciting such a letter may be difficult. For those applicants both letters may be from someone other than a professor or academic advisor.)

Review and Assessment:

The program will be assessed in accordance with the requirements for review set out by the Graduate Council. These include an annual report for the first three years of the program's existence as well as review within the course of regular program reviews conducted by the graduate council.

Costs:

All administrative costs of the program, such as office supplies and clerical staff time, can be managed within the existing budgets of Political Science and Philosophy.

Salaries and wages: none

Benefits: none

Current Expense: none

Library: none

Equipment: none

Travel: none

TOTAL: 0